

**SECRET**

**SUBJECT: Dr. Ivo PROTULIPAC, Yugoslav  
Catholic Leader Murdered 21 January 1946**

1. Dr. Ivo PROTULIPAC, well-known Catholic leader in Yugoslavia before the war, was assassinated on 21 January 1946 in broad daylight on the streets of Trieste. Subject is believed to have maintained liaison between Archbishop STEPINAC and the anti-TITO group in Rome.

2. Gino BENTICH, Communist, confessed to the crime. Shortly thereafter BENTICH was disowned simultaneously by the Communist Party and Radio BELGRADE, who disclaimed all knowledge of PROTULIPAC's presence in Trieste, though maintaining that he was a war criminal.

3. It is of significance to note that in a letter from [redacted] in Italy, written to [redacted] on 14 January 1946 (one week before PROTULIPAC was murdered), the following specific point was made:

"Please let us know what Dr. Ivo PROTULIPAC is doing and keep an eye on his contacts."

TO: STATE

**SECRET**